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W. German Held as Red Spy

By Gastor Coblenz
Herald Tribune News Service

BONN, Dec. 13—A German official arrested today on charges of spying for the Communists was unofficially said to have succeeded in penetrating Gen. Reinhard Gehlen's highly regarded West German Intelligence Service.

It was the first such development to have been publicly reported since the "Gehlen organization" became an official West German agency five years ago after its earlier post-war connection with the United States.

The arrested official was identified by the West German Federal Prosecutor's Office at

Karlsruhe as Heinz Felfe. The grounds for his arrest were stated as "suspicion of treasonable activities."

DPA, the West German press agency, published an account of the case which stated that Felfe held a key position in "a particularly important" department of the Gehlen

agency that dealt with Soviet affairs.

In addition, Felfe was described as having been a liaison official between the Gehlen organization and corresponding operations of North Atlantic Treaty Organization members.

Upon his arrest, he was reported to have given "ideologi-

cal conviction" as the motive for his espionage activities. He reportedly stated that his

"Communist beliefs" impelled him to work against West Germany and other NATO states. The DPA wire repeated the story two and a half hours later. The second version attributed it to "not officially confirmed information current in Bonn." The agency did not,

however, retract any part of its original account.

Felfe was the third German to have been accused on espionage charges within the past 48 hours. The other two were Col. Carl Otto von Hinkeldey, a West German Army staff officer, and Peter Fuhrmann,

described as an official at Army administrative headquarters at Hannover.

According to DPA, Fuhrmann admitted working for Soviet intelligence. He was reported by the news agency to have penetrated the West German Army's Militärischer Abschirmdienst, described as "the heart of the Army's counter-intelligence operations."

However, the reported penetration of the Gehlen organization by Felfe inevitably attracted even more attention, owing to the organization's long-established reputation as one of the West's most effective intelligence services.

Gehlen, 59, served in the Third Reich as chief of intelligence of the Foreign Armies (East) Department of the German Army General Staff. In other words, he specialized in intelligence operation directed at the Soviet Union.

He is known to have offered his services and a considerable remnant of his wartime organization to the Americans after the end of the war. He and his staff are acknowledged to have worked with the United States until after West Germany recovered its sovereignty. The Gehlen group then emerged as Bonn's top external intelligence operation.

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